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COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES FROM THE TERRITORIES OF THE BALTIC STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 21 January 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the text of two statements issued by the Lithuanian authorities (see annexes) in response to a statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Andrei Kozyrev, on 18 January 1994. The first statement, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, was published on 18 January 1994. The second text is a statement by the Seimas (Parliament), issued on 20 January 1994.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Complete withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territories of the Baltic States", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Anicetas SIMUTIS
Permanent Representative

Annex I

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania dated 18 January 1994

On 18 January of this year, a statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, A. Kozyrev, on the vitally important interests of Russia in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic countries was circulated. The statement says that the Baltic countries constitute a zone of the most important interests of Russia and that Russia need not withdraw its military from these countries. The legalization of dual citizenship is demanded as well.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania once again clearly states that it does not accept the term "near abroad", used extensively by Russian officials. Furthermore, the Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs is concerned over Russia's repeated claims of human rights violations in the Baltic countries, as this does not reflect the true situation. Only the people of an independent Lithuania and their elected governing bodies may decide which model for the granting of citizenship may be chosen. Any pressure to the contrary on this matter will be regarded as interference in Lithuania's internal affairs.

The impression is that Russia has not renounced its military influence in the Baltic countries. It is surprising that a statement of such content was issued after the meeting between the Presidents of the United States and Russia, and following the commencement of work of the new Russian Parliament. We would not want the worst predictions connected with the well-known results of the recent elections to come true.

Annex II

Statement by the Seimas of Lithuania dated 20 January 1994

The Seimas of Lithuania, reviewing the recent series of events in Russia and its current foreign policy, expresses its concern that recent statements made by certain Russian authorities regarding the Baltic countries have taken on an increasingly sharp tone. This trend is confirmed by comments made by Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev concerning Russia's vital interests in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, constantly referred to as the "near abroad", and about a possible suspension of the military withdrawal from Latvia and Estonia. No ambiguous manoeuvres can reduce the negative implications of these statements.

The presence of the Russian military in the Baltic States and the delay in its withdrawal not only adds to the instability of Estonia and Latvia, allowing conditions for conflict and provocations to develop there, but also endangers stability in Lithuania. This demonstrates that Russia is ignoring international agreements and documents it itself has signed, and in so doing threatens world peace and stability.

The Seimas of Lithuania expresses its great concern over the present Russian policy towards the Baltic countries, and states its hope that the processes of democratization in Russia will continue, and that Russia will respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Baltic countries.